

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 USIA-06 /065 W

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R 160849Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 96

INFO USUNMISSION NEW YORK 1545

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN APPROACHES TO US OFFICIALS

REF: USUN 1589 NOTAL

KINSHASA 3978

1. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY NORTH KOREAN APPROACHES TO US OFFICIALS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS AND BELIEVE THEY RAISE POSSIBILITY NK WILL TAKE SIMILAR STEPS AT OTHER POSTS.
2. SUCH MOVES MIGHT PROVIDE US WITH ADDITIONAL DIMENSION FOR ASSESSMENT OF NORTH KOREAN POLICIES, PARTICULARLY TOWARD ROK, AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE. THEY WOULD ALSO PROVIDE US WITH OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS DIRECTLY AND FIRMLY TO NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS OUR COMMITMENT TO ROK SECURITY.
3. WE ARE OF COURSE FULLY AWARE OF ROKG CONCERNS OVER US-NORTH KOREAN CONTACTS; INDEED IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT NORTH KOREAN APPROACHES ARE, IN FACT, PARTLY AIMED AT STIRRING UP ROK-US DISSENSION ON THIS ISSUE. APPROACHES MAY ALSO BE AIMED AT STRENGTHENING IMPRESSION OF NORTH KOREAN ACCEPTANCE BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IF DISCUSSIONS ARE BRIEF, HOWEVER, HELD IN THE CASUAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF RELATIVELY LARGE RECEPTIONS, AND ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN INITIATIVES, WE THINK

DISADVANTAGES WOULD BE MINIMIZED AND THAT THE EXCHANGES
COULD BE JUSTIFIED ON BASIS OF POTENTIAL VALUE MENTIONED
IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

4. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH THIS POSITIONN WE WOULD
SUGGEST THAT CIRCULAR TELEGRAM BE SENT TO APPROPRIATE
POSTS INFORMING THEM OF POSSIBILITY OF NORTH KOREAN
APPROACHES AND INSTRUCTING THEM ON HANDLING OF DISCUSSIONS
WITH NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL03466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0601
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750544/aaaabnvy.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USUN 1589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREAN APPROACHES TO US OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, US, KN, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006